ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for capturing the visual scenes of an incident so many seconds before, during and after the incident has occurred is disclosed. The apparatus can provide additional functionality of capturing the activities of the operator of a transportation system as well as the sound wave of the environment before, during and after an incident. The disclosed method and apparatus can be used in a land, sea and air based transportation system as well as a traffic monitoring system. The apparatus uses a digital first-in-first-out bufferring mechanism to allow for capturing of an event that may occur at any time in an infinite time span using a finite stoage. The apparatus is comprised of a control unit for overall operational control, a memory unit for temporally storage, an imaging capturing unit for capturing visual scene, a digital sensor for triggering an automatic preservation of captured scenes, a digital sound recorder for capturing sound wave matching the recorded images, a persistent storage unit for preserving of captured scene and sound wave, a power source to allow for continued operation and a protective housing to resist environmental damages.